

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-20 HA-05 ACDA-12 /118 W
-----084513 070003Z /73

R 060917Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8598
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS LUSAKA 2011

CAPE TWON FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, RH
SUBJ: RHODESIA: NKOMO TV INTERVIEW

1. ZAPU LEADER JOSHUA NKOMO WAS INTERVIEWED ON ZAMBIAN TELEVISION THE EVENING OF JUNE 4, THE DAY AFTER HE RETURNED FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION. THE ZAMBIAN HOST BEGAN HIS TOUGH QUESTIONING BY ASKING NKOMO IF HE PLANNED TO GO TO SALISBURY TO JOIN THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT. NKOMO SAID THAT HE WAS GOING BACK AS A FIGHTER TO FINISH THE JOB OF REMOVING SMITH. HE SAID THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT HAD CHANGED NOTHING EXCEPT THAT SOME BLACK FACES HAD NOW JOINED THE REGIME.

2. THE INTERVIEWER NOTED THAT FIGHTING "SEEMS TO HAVE
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SLOWED DOWN, " AND WAH WHAT ACTION EXISTED SEEMED TO BE TAKING PLACE MAINLY IN THE EAST (I.E. ZANU TERRITORY). DENYING ANY LULL IN ACTION, NKOMO SAID THAT THE WAR WAS CONTINUING ACCORDING TO PLAN AND THAT ZAPU FORCES WERE OPERATING ALL OVER THE COUNTRY. HE SAID THAT ZAPU AND ZANU WERE "FIGHTING SIDE-BY-SIDE" TO GET RID OF SMITH. WHEN ASKED WHERE THIS WAS HAPPENING, NKOMO SIDE-STEPPED A DIRECT ANSWER AND STATED

THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS MOVING IN UNISON TO FORCE SMITH TO ACCEPT THE INEVITABLE.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF POSSIBLE SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA, NKOMO SAID THAT SOUTH AFRICAN PERSONNEL WERE STILL THERE--THEY HAD MERELY CHANGED UNIFORMS IN 1974 WHEN VORSTER SAID THE SA "POLICE" WERE BEING WITHDRAWN. NKOMO ALSO ALLEGED THAT MERCENARIES NOW NUMBERED 11-15,000, AND THE PF, THEREFORE, WAS REALLY FIGHTING A NUMBER OF WESTERN COUNTRIES.

4. THE INTERVIEWER ASKED ABOUT THE ELECTIONS UNDER THE INTERNAL ACCORD AND SUGGESTED THAT SOME COUNTRIES MIGHT RECOGNIZE THE RESULTS. NKOMO TERMED THE ELECTIONS A FRAUD AND A "DREAM" IN A WAR SITUATION UNDER WHICH "THOSE PEOPLE DON'T EVEN LEAVE THE URBAN AREAS." HE SAID THAT ELECTIONS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE, BUT EVEN IF THEY DO THEY WILL BE MEANINGLESS. HE CHARGED THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT WAS CRUMBLING AND WOULD END IN CHAOS.

5. ASKED IF THE HE RECEIVED FURTHER PROMISES OF ARMS DURING HIS VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION WHICH "HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE" WITH ZAPU, NKOMO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ORGANIZATION RECEIVED ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE EAST AND NOTED THAT ZAPU WOULD ACCEPT HELP FROM ANY COUNTRY WHICH ANSWERED ITS CALL. HE CHARGED THAT THE WESTERN COUNTRIES WERE LIKE "A
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HYENA CHEWING ON YOUR LEG WHILE WARNING ABOUT THE EASTERN LION." HE SAID THE LION, HOWEVER, MIGHT BE ONLY TRYING TO SCARE OFF THE HYENA.

6. WHEN ASKED IF AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE LED BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD HONOR INTERNATIONAL LOANS UNDERTAKEN BY THE SMITH REGIME, NKOMO SAID THAT ANY DEBTS INCURRED TO BE USED TO "OPPRESS" THE MASSES WOULD NOT BE HONORED. HE SAID THAT ANY LOANS MADE FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE WOULD, HOWEVER, BE REPAYED.
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